AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1.-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) A method of determining the occurrence or nonoccurrence of an ischemic stroke in a subject, comprising:

(a) performing an assay by contacting a sample of bodily fluid from said subject with an antibody that binds the 108 amino acid brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) precursor or one or more markers related thereto, and detecting a signal indicative of the presence or amount of polypeptides bound to said antibody; and

(b) determining whether the results of the assay indicate the occurrence or nonoccurrence of an ischemic stroke in said subject.

33. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein said method further comprises performing one or more additional assays, each of said additional assays comprising contacting a sample from said subject with an antibody that binds a marker selected from the group consisting of adenylate kinase, brain-derived neurotrophic factor, c-tau, calbindin-D, creatine kinase-BB, glial fibrillary acidic protein, lactate dehydrogenase, myelin basic protein, neural cell adhesion molecule (NCAM), neuron-specific enolase, neurotrophin-3, proteolipid protein, S-100β, thrombomodulin, and protein kinase C γ, and detecting a signal indicative of the presence or amount of polypeptides bound to said antibody, and

wherein said determining step comprises determining whether the results of the assay performed and the results of said additional assay(s) performed indicate the occurrence or nonoccurrence of an ischemic stroke in said subject.

34. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein said method further comprises performing one or more additional assays, each of said additional assays comprising contacting a sample from said subject with an antibody that binds a marker selected from the group consisting of caspase-3, cathepsin D, and α-spectrin, and detecting a signal indicative of the presence or amount of polypeptides bound to said antibody, and

wherein said determining step comprises determining whether the results of the assay performed and the results of said additional assay(s) performed indicate the occurrence or nonoccurrence of an ischemic stroke in said subject.

35. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein said method further comprises performing one or more additional assays, each of said additional assays comprising contacting a sample from said subject with an antibody that binds a marker selected from the group consisting of acute phase reactants, cell adhesion molecules, C-reactive protein, interleukins, interleukin-1 receptor agonist, monocyte chemotactic protein-1, caspase-3, lipocalin-type prostaglandin D synthase, mast cell tryptase, eosinophil cationic protein, KL-6, haptoglobin, tumor necrosis factor α, tumor necrosis factor β, Fas ligand, soluble Fas (Apo-1), tumor necrosis factor ligand superfamily member 10 (TRAIL), tumor necrosis factor ligand superfamily member 12 (TWEAK), fibronectin, macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF), and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), and detecting a signal indicative of the presence or amount of polypeptides bound to said antibody, and

wherein said determining step comprises determining whether the results of the assay performed and the results of said additional assay(s) performed indicate the occurrence or nonoccurrence of an ischemic stroke in said subject.

36. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein said determining step comprises determining whether the results of the assay performed and the results of a computed

tomography (CT) scan performed on said subject for evaluation of hemorrhagic stroke indicate the occurrence or nonoccurrence of an ischemic stroke in said subject.

37. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein said sample of bodily fluid is blood, serum, or plasma.

38. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein said antibody that binds the 108 amino acid BNP precursor or one or more markers related thereto binds one or more of BNP, NT-proBNP, or pro-BNP.

39. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 38 wherein said antibody that binds the 108 amino acid BNP precursor or one or more markers related thereto binds BNP.

40. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 38, wherein said antibody that binds the 108 amino acid BNP precursor or one or more markers related thereto binds pro-BNP.

41. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 38, wherein said antibody that binds the 108 amino acid BNP precursor or one or more markers related thereto binds NT-proBNP.

42. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 32, wherein said stroke is an acute stroke.

43. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 42, wherein said sample is taken from said subject within 12 hours of the onset of stroke symptoms in said subject.

44. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 42, wherein said sample is taken from said subject within 6 hours of the onset of stroke symptoms in said subject.

45. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 42, wherein said sample is taken from said subject within 3 hours of the onset of stroke symptoms in said subject.